

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0018] with the following amended paragraph:

[0018] The conductive member is shaped to facilitate insertion thereof into a suture loop. The tapered tip allows it to gently slide under the loop of the suture, between the patient's skin and a knotted portion of said suture. For example, the tapered tip may comprise a conical point. See, for example, Figures 2 and 3. Alternatively, the tip may take the form of a flat shovel or spade-shaped scoop. See, for example, Figures 12 and 13.

Please add the following new paragraphs after paragraph [0038]

[0038.1] Figure 12 is a perspective view of an alternate embodiment of the distal end of the device of Figure 1.

[0038.2] Figure 13 is a side view of the alternate embodiment of Figure 12.